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Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Recognizing the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

Welcoming the Tunis Commitment[2] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[3] of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-E.
[3] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-E.

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recalling the Declaration of Principles[4] and Plan of Action[5] adopted at Geneva on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the Summit,

Acknowledging with appreciation the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[6]

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the second World Information Technology Forum by Botswana from 31 August to 2 September 2005 in Gaborone,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communication technologies,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its intersessional period 2004-2005 on science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular, the recommendation to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries[7] with a view to allowing scientists and engineers to interact with each other and make use of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities offered by those centres,

Taking note of the selection by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme "Bridging the technology gap between and within nations" for its work during the intersessional period 2005-2006,[7]

Taking note also of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development publication, *The Digital Divide: ICT Development Indices 2004*,[8]

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network in biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[9]

1. *Affirms* its commitment:

(a) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

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[4] A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[5] Ibid., sect. B.

[6] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 11* (E/2005/31), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2005/4, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2005.

[9] A/60/184.

(b) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(c) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(d) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

(e) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(f) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum to address within its mandate the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communication technologies and environmental management;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

4. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and its affiliated centres as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the area of biotechnology, and encourages those and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including for industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the secretary-general of the World Summit on the Information Society to transmit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session the report of the Summit;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.